

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

24 April 1981

Mr. Brian V. Kinney
Chief, Declassification and
Historical Research Branch
Records Management Division
Washington Headquarters Services
Room 1 D 517, Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Kinney:

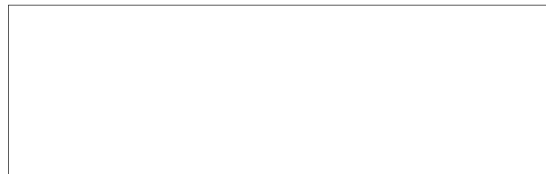
This is in reply to Mr. E. E. Lowry's letter of 14 April, which forwarded to CIA for classification review, under E.O. 12065, three documents found in the systematic review of classified OSD documents.

The first item, a letter of 15 January 1951 from our Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence to Dr. H. P. Robertson, Deputy Director, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, is declassified. The second item, a letter of 8 February 1951 from Dr. Robertson to the Director W.S.E.G. with an attached draft letter to the Director Central Intelligence, is not a CIA document. The Weapons Systems Evaluation Group in 1951 was under the Joint Chiefs of Staff; consequently the document is under the purview of the Department of Defense. We, however, have no objection to its declassification and have so indicated on the document. The third item, a memorandum of 18 August 1949, produced by our Office of Scientific Intelligence, has been downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL, but cannot be declassified or released to the general public under paragraph 1-301(c) of Executive Order 12065.

If you have any questions concerning specific actions on any of these items, please contact us.

JCS review completed

Sincerely,



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Chief, Classification Review Division
Office of Information Services
Directorate of Administration

USAF review(s) completed.

Attachments:

1. Ltr dtd 15 Jan 51
2. Ltr dtd 8 Feb 51
3. Memo dtd 18 Aug 1949

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

Unclassified when
Separated from
Attachment.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, HEADQUARTERS SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, CLASSIFICATION REVIEW DIVISION, CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Request for Declassification Review

During the systematic review of all classified Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) documents over 20 years old, the Declassification and Historical Research Branch, Records Management Division, Directorate for Correspondence and Directives, Washington Headquarters Services, turned up the attached document(s).

The documents were either originated by your agency, contain information for which your agency is the classification authority, or are otherwise of interest to you.

It is therefore requested that your agency review the documents and recommend declassification, continued classification at the present or lesser level of classification, and/or review by other agencies. If your agency is recommending continued classification, in accordance with Paragraph 3-401, Executive Order 12065, it is requested that an authority for continued classification be specified, along with a date for the next review.

The time permitted by Executive Order 12065 to reach the point where all OSD documents over 20 years old have been reviewed, and the large volume of over 20 year old OSD documents, make it necessary to request your response within 60 days. In your response, you may wish to provide guidance with regard to what categories of information you do and do not wish to have referred to you in the future.

Your assistance in effecting this review will be most appreciated. Please return the documents to Mr. Brian V. Kinney, Chief, Declassification and Historical Research Branch, Records Management Division, Washington Headquarters Services, Room 1D517, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301, upon completion of your review.

Without attachments, this memorandum is UNCLASSIFIED.

E. E. Lowry, Jr.
E. E. Lowry, Jr.

OSD Records Administrator

Attachments (3)

~~SECRET~~

U-2 08636

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Ltr, 15 Jan 51 to Dr Howard P. Robertson, 5917-1 (S)
2. Memo, 8 Feb 51, Subj: Semi-Annual Estimate of the Status of the Soviet Atomic Energy Program (CIA/SI 100-51) with Memo. 7 Feb 51, Subj: Same (S) *WSEC/30*
3. Memo, 18 Aug 49, Subj: OSI Intelligence Support for Weapons Systems Evaluation Group Project - Evaluation of U.S. Strategic Bombing of USSR (4 Pgs)(S)

WSEU

471.6 (RUSSIA)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 January 1951

Dr. Howard P. Robertson
Deputy Director,
Weapons Systems Evaluation Group
Room 2E 996
The Pentagon

Dear Dr. Robertson:

In accordance with a decision made by General Smith, a copy of the current Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee estimate, "Status of the Soviet Atomic Energy Program", CIA/SI 100-51, dated 5 January 1951, is not being sent to you despite your having received copies of previous such estimates. This decision was based on a Presidential statement made at the 77th Meeting of the National Security Council directing the Director of Central Intelligence to limit more strictly the distribution of CIA reports.

However, recognizing your need to know the contents of this estimate, General Smith also requested that [] should make his copy available for your use.

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Sincerely yours,

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[]
H. MARSHALL CHADWELL,
Assistant Director for
Scientific Intelligence

DOCUMENT NO. _____

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S G

NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____

AUTH: HR 13-2

DATE: 24 APR '81 REVIEWER: []

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JCS review completed

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7 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Estimate of the Status of the Soviet
Atomic Energy Program (CIA/SI 100-51)

1. The Weapons Systems Evaluation Group has been informed of your decision to eliminate it from the distribution of the subject report, in implementation of the President's statement to the National Security Council.
2. The copy of subject report assigned to the Chairman, Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission, has been made available to the Director, WSEG, in accordance with your request of 12 January 1951.
3. The WSEG has been directed by the Secretary of Defense, by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and by the Research and Development Board to evaluate the military worth of various weapons and weapons systems, for the execution of which a continuing knowledge of the Soviet capabilities of atomic and other weapons is required.
4. Specifically, the WSEG is at present organizing a project for the evaluation of the effect current strategic air offensive plans would have upon USSR military capabilities and upon its will to wage war, were such plans to be carried out. (JCS Memos. SM-1686-49, SM-1747-49, SM-840-50). In addition the WSEG is engaged in a study of the Air Defense of the United States and in an evaluation of the carrier task force as a weapons system, both of which require a knowledge of Soviet atomic capabilities.

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2-7-51

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5. In view of this present and continuing need for the WSEG to know the current status of USSR atomic capabilities, and in view of the fact that for optimum effectiveness such intelligence should be continuously available to the WSEG, it is requested that the WSEG be retained on the distribution list for the subject report.

J. E. HULL
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

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Approved For Release 2008/07/09 : CIA-RDP85B00236R000200170024-9

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE

Return to
S. C. Frey

18 August 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Geophysics Branch
Chief, Medical Branch
Acting Chief, Physics Branch
Acting Chief, Weapons Branch

SUBJECT: OSI Intelligence Support For Weapons Systems
Evaluation Group Project - Evaluation of U.S.
Strategic Bombing of USSR

NOTE: This memo confirms and amplifies preliminary verbal instructions heretofore issued by Lt. Col. North with respect to the above project.

I. Background

1. WSEG has been requested by JCS to evaluate the feasibility and probable effectiveness of U.S. strategic bombing of USSR in the light of current strategic air plans. It is being assumed that the bombing will be conducted with atomic bombs by B-36s at altitudes of 20,000' to 40,000'.

2. The evaluation is to be separated into the following phases:

a. Logistic feasibility of mounting the operation. For this phase, WSEG is using studies prepared by Strategic Air Command.

b. Penetration of enemy defenses. Data furnished WSEG by the Air Force assumes that bombing will be conducted during darkness (using radar sights) and concludes that losses will be small. The following aspects of Soviet air defense are to be evaluated:

(1) Both day and night interceptor aircraft.

(2) Antiaircraft guns, rockets and guided missiles, including surface to air and air to air.

(3) Radar warning net and communication systems for control of interceptor aircraft.

c. Accuracy of U.S. bombing (both in daylight and darkness).

d. Effect of the bombing on USSR economy and on the course of the war.

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C) 1991

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 24 APR 91 REVIEWER:

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II. OSI Responsibilities

1. WSEG has requested that OSI provide information only with respect to the specific subjects outlined below. However, it is possible that OSI may be requested to evaluate objectively data furnished WSEG by the Air Force on other phases of the project.

2. Meteorological aspects of high altitude (20,000' - 40,000') bombing of Leningrad, Moscow and Baku. All aspects affecting both the ability to penetrate USSR defenses and the accuracy of the bombing during all seasons of the year should be considered, such as (but not limited to) hours of darkness and daylight, percentage of daylight hours providing sufficient visibility for visual bombing, physiological effects on the crew, effect on interplane and intraplane communications. The foregoing data is to be prepared in the form of questions to be asked the Air Force by WSEG.

3. USSR capabilities in night fighter aircraft available for operational use on 1 May 1950, 1 May 1953, 1 May 1956. Data furnished WSEG by the Air Force indicates that Soviets will have 200 night fighters in 1953, but that these planes are unlikely to be radar equipped. WSEG is assuming that ME 262 is a night fighter.

4. Soviet capabilities in airborne radar for night fighter aircraft on the dates referred to above.

5. Soviet capabilities in (a) air to air unguided rockets and (b) air to air guided missiles on the dates referred to above. This requirement includes information as to VT fuses for the foregoing missiles.

III. Allocation of OSI Responsibilities

1.

a. General supervision and coordination, including coordination of liaison with WSEG.

b. Information as to the P-61s and airborne radar transferred to USSR under Lend Lease.

2. Geophysics Branch - Meteorological aspects of high altitude (20,000' - 40,000') bombing of Leningrad, Moscow and Baku.

3. Weapons Branch - USSR capabilities on 1 May 1950, 1 May 1953 and 1 May 1956 for operational employment of:

a. Night fighter aircraft, except the information referred to in paragraph 1b above.

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b. Air to air unguided antiaircraft rockets and VT fuses therefor.

c. Air to air antiaircraft guided missiles and guided missiles and VT fuses therefor.

4. Physics Branch

a. USSR capabilities on 1 May 1950, 1 May 1953, and 1 May 1956 for operational employment of airborne radar for night fighter aircraft, except the information referred to in paragraph 3b above.

b. Active assistance to Geophysics Branch and Weapons Branch with respect to the responsibilities assigned in paragraphs 2, 7a and 3c above.

5. Medical Branch - Active assistance to Geophysics Branch with respect to the physiological aspects of the responsibilities assigned in paragraph 2 above.

IV. Priorities

This project will be accorded priority over any projects now being undertaken or planned, except the initial reply to the Secretary of State on jamming of the Voice of America.

now completed 8/25

V. Completion Date

Tentative completion date is 1 October 1949. Preliminary outlines will be submitted to [] on or before 1 September 1949.


VI. Procedures

1. In conformity with policies set forth in NSCIDs, OSI will endeavor first to obtain such raw intelligence and finished studies as may be available in IAC agencies. OSI basic research will be limited to that necessary to fill the gaps not covered by information obtained from IAC agencies plus that required for objective evaluation of such information as is obtained from IAC agencies.

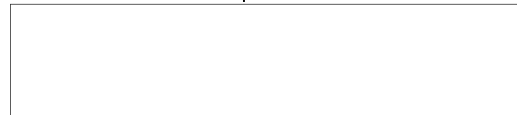
2. Requests to IAC agencies for the above information will be coordinated with [] and consolidated by him.

3. Collection requirements for OSO and CO will be framed on the basis of information not available from IAC agencies. These requirements will be coordinated with [] and consolidated by him.

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4. WSEC has designated Mr. Frey as its contact man. Liaison with Mr. Frey will be coordinated with 

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RECEIPT FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL				
TO: (Title of Office or Organization) Chief, Classification Review Div. Central Intelligence Agency			Number U 208636	
FROM: (Office and Telephone) OSD/Declassification Br		Classification SECRET	Date of Transfer 14 Apr 81	
Description of Material being Transferred (Do Not Enter Classified Info) Ltr, 14 Apr 81, Subj: Req for Declassification Review (S/U w/o atch)(w/2 Atchs) - (1) Ltr, 15 Jan 51 & (2) Memo, 8 Feb 51 w/atch Memo, 7 Feb 51, & (3) Memo, 18 Aug 49				
(Copy Info (For Copy Numbered Items, Use Inclusive Copy Nos. With # Sign)				
No. of Originals	No. of Carbons	No. of Repro Cys	No. of Encls	No. Cys of each Encl
Date Received	Typed Or Printed Name and Signature of Recipient			

SD Form 120
1 Jan 81

Recipient Copy, to be retained by Recipient